

HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER "NEWS"

57 Hartford Street -- Phone: 863-2507 -- Email: hszc108@yahoo.com -- Website: www.hszc.org -- Nov., 2006

MORNING (Monday-Friday)

5:30am-6:10 Zazen - Sitting Meditation
6:10am-6:20 Kinhin - Walking Meditation
6:20am-7:00 Zazen
7:00am-7:20 Chanting (Service)
7:20am-7:35 Soji - Temple Cleaning

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EVENING (Monday-Friday)

6:00pm-6:40 Zazen
6:40pm-6:50 Chanting

SATURDAY MORNING

6:30am-7:15 Zazen
7:15am-7:35 Chanting
7:35am-7:55 Soji
[BREAK]
9:10am-9:50 Zazen
10:00am-11:00 Dharma Talk followed by
tea and cookies and discussion.

SUNDAYS and HOLIDAYS - Closed

RETREATS and INSTRUCTION

- * 1-day retreats (1st Saturdays of the month)
- * Zazen instruction: 8:30am, 2nd/4th Saturdays (brief form) and long form at 1pm, 3rd Saturday with pre-registration).

***** THANK YOU's and WELCOME's *****

* Thank you to Allen Balderson for refurbishing our beautiful garden benches dedicated to Tighe and Ron, HIV meditation group beloveds. Allen purchased the benches and plaques when first Tighe then Ron died. We are near the anniversary of Ron's death. With love.

* Special thanks to Mary O'Toole for her kindness and generosity in service for printing another batch of new membership cards for us!

* Deep gratitude to Rev. Rin McCarthy for leading the October 1-day retreat and for her dharma talk. Thanks also to Rev. Laura Burges for her dharma talk.

* Welcome to our new member, Paul Lee.

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SOTO ZEN STUDENTS

ROOMS AVAILABLE at  
HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER  
CALL 863-2507



## *In Honor or Memory of...*

You may want to consider a gift to HSZC honoring or remembering a loved one. You can specify how you would like this gift to be used. Also you may want to consider providing a legacy to Hartford Street Zen Center as part of your estate planning. Thank you.

## Our Beautiful Zen Garden by David Bullock

The border across the patio from 'Bollywood' is anchored by a beautiful little cherry 'Akebono' which was moved there. It should eventually reach about 25 feet in height and 20 feet in width, giving some shade from the midday sun. We're thinking of making this area something of a woodland shade garden using such plants as astilbe, ferns, true geraniums, lilies and columbines. Since the light conditions are the same from the cherry, all along the south fence to the back stairs we'll probably be using similar plants here as well.

The path which runs along this bed separating the bed from the rose garden was somewhat sunken, uneven and too narrow, making it hard to use. We are currently making it wider and connecting it to the main path under the old plum tree. This will create a looping walkway, which will allow for kinhin in the garden.

Another undertaking and a major one will be to reconfigure the area beneath the tree ferns. At present, the space is rather chopped up and irregularly surfaced. Since this is where the memorial stones of Issan-roshi and Zenshin-sensei are it would be nice to make the place more conducive to ceremonials and quiet contemplation.

The HSZC Board has already given a stamp of approval on a plan to remake the front garden using drought tolerant plants. We'll be keeping some of the existing plants as well as moving some from the back to create a more unified theme. This area must be hand watered due to the difficulty and expense of installing an irrigation system, particularly where it would have to run under the walkway.

Jennifer and I would like to thank those others not previously mentioned who have been such a great help to us in these projects, especially Clay Miller for his generous donations and our visiting monk, Kenryu for all his labor. We're also grateful to the HSZC residents and members for letting us "take the ball and run with it." It's a tremendous pleasure.

*Editor's Note: Special thanks and blessings to David and Jennifer for their loving care of our gardens, as their ongoing gift to our sangha!*



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Issan Dorsey, born Tommy Dorsey in Santa Barbara, Ca. in 1933 was a drag performer in shows in SF's North Beach in the 1950's. His billing was "Tommy Dee, the boy who looks like the girl next door." In the 1960's, he became part of the SF hippie movement and founded a commune. Regular and extreme use of alcohol and drugs became part of his life style punctuated by numerous overdoses and arrests.

Hartford Street Zen Center opened in 1981 and when the AIDS pandemic broke out in SF, Dorsey brought a young man dying of AIDS to live at Hartford Street. This resulted in founding Maitri in 1987, which grew to be a model hospice for persons dying of AIDS. Issan Dorsey died of AIDS-related complications at Maitri on September 6, 1990.



(By Jennifer Birkett)

SAN QUENTIN'S BUDDHADHARMA SANGHA

Seven years ago, a group of inmates who'd been meeting informally on the San Quentin prison yard petitioned the Warden to establish a Buddhist sitting group. The "Buddhist Peace Fellowship's" prison project supplied the needed sponsorship.

Every Sunday, the Muslim/Jewish chapel is transformed into a Zendo by the inmates. There are two doors into the space: one has Arabic writing and the other Hebrew over it. The question is, "Which door does a Buddhist enter?" I am a priest from Green Gulch Farm Zen Center and founding teacher of the group. A year later, Myogen Steve Stucky agreed to share the teaching duties.

At first, I'd set up the room and run the ceremonies; now the inmates do everything. SF Zen Center donated zafus and books. The inmates constructed a beautiful inlaid altar and seiza benches, produced zabutans in their mattress factory and created sutra books. A Buddha, bells and such were donated by friends of the Sangha.

The group meets every Sunday to sit, chant, discuss the dharma and engage in traditional Zen forms. In seven years, we've studied a lot of dharma and heard from teachers in different Buddhist traditions. At present, our study has reached the 42nd patriarch in Keisen's "Transmission of Light".

For the last three years, under the tutelage of John King, the group became adept at doan ryo skills, especially the Full Moon Ceremony. John brought a lively, friendly love of the dharma and ceremony to the group. John's recent death is a great loss. The inmates loved John and miss him. During the last full moon ceremony, we were impressed with the deep, strong chanting of the kokyo and sangha. Greg Fain, who was prison correspondence coordinator when at Tassajara, has taken over John's duties. My thanks to all those who have supported the efforts of the San Quentin Buddhadharma Sangha.

JIKO TRAINING

## Movie Nights

Please join us for our movie night.

**Sunday Nov. 19th at 5pm.**

